



## Fish Creek Herd Management Area Eureka County, Nevada

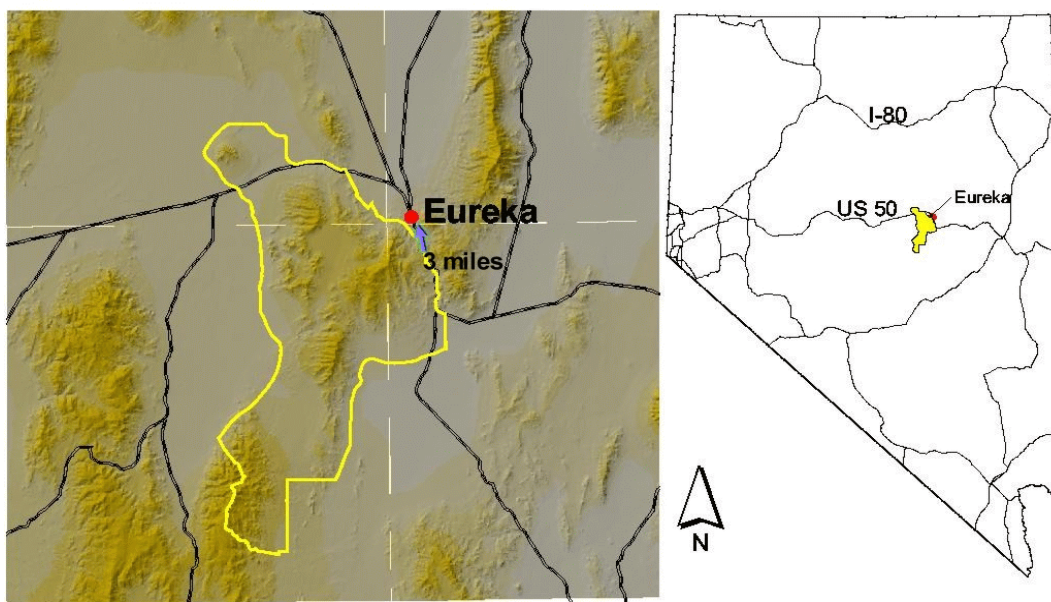


### Location/Habitat

The Fish Creek Herd Management Area (HMA) is located just a few miles south of Eureka, Nevada in Eureka County. The area consists of approximately 252,800 acres, which spans 19 miles in width and 39 miles in length. The majority of the HMA includes all or portions of the Fish Creek Range, the Mahogany Hills, and the Antelope Range. Antelope Valley lies to the west, and Little Smoky Valley to the east. Elevations range from 6,030 feet in the wide valley bottoms, to 10,100 feet at Nine Mile Peak.

The terrain across most of the former Shoshone-Eureka planning area managed by the Battle Mountain Field Office is typical of the Great Basin region with steep north and south trending mountain ranges separated by large sweeping valley bottoms. Nevada has the largest number of mountain ranges in the United States. Temperatures range in excess of 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer to less than 20 degrees below zero in the winter. Precipitation is in short supply with an annual total of only 5 to 16 inches.

This HMA is often utilized by domestic cattle and domestic sheep. Wildlife species occurring in the area include mule deer, sage grouse, chukar, coyote, mountain lion, bobcat, pronghorn antelope and numerous other small mammals, birds, and reptiles.



### **Vegetation**

Vegetation types are distributed according to topography and elevation and the associated precipitation. Within the highest elevations, and subsequently the greatest precipitation, the vegetation consists primarily of pinyon-pine and juniper trees, mountain-mahogany and low sagebrush. The Fish Creek HMA supports high elevation stands of aspen, as well. The lower and drier elevations consist of saltbush, greasewood, sagebrush and a variety of annual and perennial grasses and wildflowers. In some areas it may take 25 acres to support one horse for one month. Antelope and Little Smoky Valleys both support vegetation communities comprised of white sage (winterfat) which is a highly nutritious winter forage species. These areas are often referred to as white sage flats, and are easily affected by overgrazing.

### **Herd Description**

The colors of the horses in the Fish Creek HMA are predominantly bay, brown, sorrel, red roan, and blue roan. There are a few buckskin, gray, grulla (mouse color), and palomino horses.

The Fish Creek HMA was also the first home of the Curly horse. These animals were introduced in Eureka County, Nevada, by Tom Dixon in 1874. Some evidence of this blood line still exists.



**Horse escaping  
capture in the Fish  
Creek Herd  
Management Area.**